THE Lions' Pride
OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

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Greek Week 2009 brings new life into old traditions

BY COLLIN R. GOOD
Lions' Pride Sports Editor

Saint Leo students meet and greet fraternaties and sorities during Greek Week.

Photography courteousy of Tiffany Challies

Greek Week is a continuing tradition at Saint Leo, and there seems to be no end in the foreseeable future. More than 100 men and women came out to rush for a fraternity or sorority during the 2009 spring semester.

Between January 26 and January 31, 2009, Saint Leo University's campus was filled with talk of Formal Recruitment Week, or Greek Week. Sponsored by the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council, the week is designed to get students interested in "going greek" by joining a fraternity or sorority. Saint Leo's fraternities are: Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma, Sigma Lambda, and Kappa Theta. The sororities on campus are: Alpha Sigma Tau, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Gamma Upsilon, while Theta Phi Alpha is a female fraternity.

"There was an excellent turnout during Greek recruitment this year, and I believe that a lot of its success came from IFC and Panhel coordinating their recruitment weeks to occur at the same time," said Chad Kinney, senior and fraternity member.

The week commenced with registration night, in which all campus fraternities and sororities set up "brag tables" to promote their organization, using flags, paddles, shirts, and all things Greek. registration night was followed by nights of interest parties, where all who registered were taken in groups to 40-minute information sessions for the fraternities, and hour long get-togethers for the sororities.

Preference nights were held for the fraternities and for the sororities. The purpose of preference night is to allow the potential new members to demonstrate which organization is the best fit.

Following preference night is bid day for the fraternities, and another night of interest parties for the sororities. Bid day for the fraternities is when bids are extended to new members, who can choose to accept from any organization that extends them the opportunity to rush.

Formal recruitment is one way that the IFC at Saint Leo is keeping in compliance with the National Interfraternity Conference (NIC) Standards. Set forth in 2004, all national fraternities that have signed into the Standards must practice continuous recruitment, where a prospective member of the fraternity can receive a bid at any time throughout the year, not just during one week.

"Saint Leo promotes (a policy) that it is a year-long recruitment and not a two-week process," said senior Ryan Regensdorfer, president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, a national fraternity that has signed the NIC Standards. "Anyone can be given a bid at any time as long as they meet Saint Leo's requirement of twelve credit hours and a 2.0 GPA. However, rush week is when the fraternities promote joining."

Panhellenic Council does not practice a Continuous Recruitment policy, only taking on new members during their Formal Recruitment week.

Greek Letter fraternities and sororities differ from academic Greek Letter fraternities, in which a member of either sex can be a part. Common academic fraternities include Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Sigma, and Omega Delta Sigma.

"Promoting both fraternity and sorority life together allowed guys and girls to encourage each other to come out and see what each organization had to offer. Because of this, we had over 100 students come out to register for recruitment, wich is a great number," continued Kinney.

Fraternities and sororities are one of the only types of organizations that are allowed to discriminate based on gender in the United States. When Congress passed Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, special provision was included to allow Greek organizations to keep their traditions alive.

"Recruitment Week was a success on both ends, and everyone's looking forward to seeing what this new semester has to offer for Greek Life," said Kinney.

Obama attempts to pull America out of recession with 2009 stimulus plan

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

With a mission to restore the economy and bring jobs to millions of unemployed Americans, President Barack Obama has created a new economic stimulus plan, just recently passed by the House of Representatives last week.

The bill consists of more than $800 billion of spending increases and tax cuts in an effort to prevent the economy from falling into another depression. Approximately $275 billion alone will be spent in tax cuts, and $20 billion of that amount will be spent on finding alternative sources of energy, some of which include tax credits for wind, geothermal, hydro power and bioenergy. Approximately $550 billion in spending will go to such items like healthcare, unemployment benefits, food stamps, and other services needed by the American people.

The stimulus plan will also give back to the individual states to save them from further budget cuts. This bill will supposedly help the school systems by giving back money for grants, scholarships, teacher's pay, and to individual universities within each state. Job-creating programs such as mass transit and highway construction could also benefit citizens and provide a better opportunity for employment within the next few years.

"I think these tax cuts are necessary," said Freshman Adam Wethington. "These cuts are going to give money back to the economy and individual citizens and families. This is exactly what we need."

Obama's tax cuts are designed to put money back into people's pockets over the next few years. If passed, working families would be eligible for a $1,000 tax credit, and working individuals would get a $500 tax credit, according to the Washington Post. Businesses will see a $3,000 tax credit for every job they create or preserve and have the ability to apply for current losses to taxes paid back as far as five years ago and receive immediate compensation.

Some students believe the individual is more important than large businesses.

"I think instead of bailing out huge companies, the government should give everyone $100,000," said Junior Anna Robinson. "That way, we will start spending more money, pay our debts off and it will inevitably boost the economy."

So far, the President has been successful in his attempts to pass this bill. His plan passed in the House of Representatives and will be debated by the Senate starting this week. The bill may in fact see no support from the Republicans in the Senate, because not one Republican voted for the bill during the House vote last week.

The American people will just have to wait and see what happens next. President Obama believes firmly in his plan to save the economy and it seems there are many Americans who will support his endeavors until the country sees a real change.

"I'm excited to see what Obama will do," Robinson commented.

Opinions

Obama's stimulating success

BY KATIE GAISER
Lions' Pride Layout Editor

SHE SAID

In an effort to tackle the somewhat frightening economic crisis existing in the United States today, President Barack Obama has created a brand new economic stimulus package totaling more than $800 billion.

This stimulus package is supposed to pull our country out of its recession and prevent any threat of advancement towards a full blown depression, which we currently face. The bill, in my opinion, includes many positive factors that will no doubt help the economy, and more directly, us poor folk.

For instance, this bill offers $275 billion in tax cuts including a tax credit of $500 to single workers and $1,000 to married couples. Instead of just throwing the money in select hands one time, like Bush did, Obama has made his version of a "stimulus check" put cash in our pockets over the next two years while also kick-starting the economy.

Approximately $20 billion of these tax cuts will go to finding alternative energy and a multi-year extension of the production of tax credit for wind, geothermal, hydro power and bioenergy, according to Reuters news out of the UK. Perhaps, this will help the United States decrease its dependence on foreign oil, which face it, is something we should definitely consider. This advancement towards finding alternative energy is a huge step in the right direction. Obama is planning for the future rather than just offering the American people a "quick fix."

This bill also includes billions of dollars that will go to each of the states in an effort to save them from any further budget cuts. This money will certainly ease the recession's impact on education and law enforcement, creating more money for grants, teacher's pay, and aid to universities. There will be more money for traditional job-creating programs such as highway construction and mass transit projects.

Furthermore, this bill is set to create millions of jobs throughout the next two years. In a time where the unemployment rate is at its highest in the last quarter century, who would dare suggest we don't go through with this bill? Well, it turns out

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Very few First Daughters have inspired as much interest as Chelsea Clinton. She is very smart, very pretty, and an only child. Since Chelsea Clinton is one of a kind {She even campaigned for her mom}, one might wonder what was her contribution to the public good. The Bush girls both made serious contributions to humanity {Jenna Bush wrote a book about AIDs and donated her royalties and Barbara Bush volunteered in Africa}. Amy Carter publicly demonstrated against the CIA at Brown University.

What did Chelsea Clinton the Rhodes Scholar do? She wrote an Honors Thesis for her degree from Stanford University about Northern Ireland. The only problem is that the Stanford Library doesn't have a copy and her major professor won't release his copy.

This is odd but not as shocking as her research at Oxford. Chelsea Clinton went to Oxford University on a Rhodes scholarship. The Rhodes Trust awards scholarships only to the most brilliant and socially conscious students. They can afford to be selective because every Rhodes Scholar gets free tuition, room and board, and a stipend not to mention the honor that goes with Rhodes.

While on a Rhodes Scholarship Chelsea Clinton finished a thesis track Master of Philosophy. Her thesis topic won't take your breath away {The Global Fund to Fight AIDs, TB, and Malaria} but that's not the shocker. According to the Oxford University's Library website her Master's Degree thesis is embargoed. If I understand correctly, this means you can't see it.

What does this mean for the future of research? Will we live in a world where some research is off limits to the general public? I thought a thesis project is supposed to not only guard against unprepared graduates but also make the world a better place.

Edward Saint-Ivan, MPA
Class of 87'

Thank you Reverend King

BY CASEY MCKENNA
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

On January 19, students, professors, and faculty from Saint Leo University headed to the community boardrooms to hear Brent Scarpo and James Tokley speak. Scarpo is the director and producer of the film, "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium." Tokley is Tampa's Poet Laureate.

Father Stephen Brown began the morning with a prayer and some welcoming words to those who chose to attend the event. After the prayer, I sat back in my seat and looked around the room. I couldn't help but to think about how far society has come since Martin Luther King, Jr. powerfully let the world know what his dream involved.

King's dream, and his well-known speech, is the reason we are able to go to a university made up of individuals from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. His dream is the reason the individuals sitting in that room on Monday were able to listen without an ounce of violence to the hopes and ambitions of two men. His dream is the reason we have the friends, professors, and families we do. It is important for people to realize what the verbalization of a dream can do.

After a moment of observing my surroundings, I looked up at the podium where Tokley had started to read a poem. He sang the rest of "A Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes before introducing himself and telling the audience that good poets should always acknowledge a fellow writer. He kindly shared some of his poems with the audience. One of the poems was written because Tokely had been inspired by the recent inauguration. His powerful voice and true words left a mark among listeners.

Scarpo proceeded to speak after Tokley left the audience with inspiration to better ourselves. Scarpo flew in from California to speak at Saint Leo University. He said the University was one of his favorites to speak at. His goal was to show people what hate could do. He made it clear he did not feel that speaking about tolerance got the message across very well. He chose to get to the unpleasant and dirty facts about hate and how it ruins lives.

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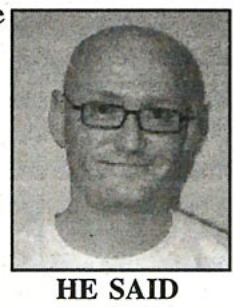
Prepare to be stimulated

BY JOSHUA M. SMITH
Lions' Pride Online Editor


HE SAID

Remember the good old days of the Bush 43 presidency? Back when Democrats were screaming out loud over deficit spending while Republicans were clamoring for more and more pork barrel projects?

It's nice to see things getting back to normal in Washington. President Obama's $1 trillion "stimulus" plan is on its way through Congress loaded with pork barrel spending on Democrat pet projects, and Republicans have finally gotten back to their fiscally responsible roots—not a single Republican member of Congress voted yes on the behemoth spending bill.

As of this writing, the plan may yet undergo significant changes as the Senate debates the bill, but it looks as if the Democrats will largely get what they want.

Is that a bad thing? Not really, I suppose. It's like Obama said to Republican Congressman Eric Cantor, "I won" the election (so much for that bipartisan spirit Obama promised). Democrats have probably earned the right to spend as much money (that we don't have) as they'd like. The voters put them in power; now let the voters suffer the consequences.

What are those consequences? Well, as we heard so many times during the Bush administration, deficit spending "mortgages our children's future." This unprecedented deficit spending has even those without a background in economics worried about whether the country can survive such irresponsible stewardship of the treasury.

In the short term, we can expect to see much higher unemployment for months—perhaps years—to come. Obama's "stimulus" plan has more money in it for contraception and sexually transmitted diseases than it does for programs that create stable, lasting, well-paying jobs for out of work Americans.

Furthermore, the bill has lots and lots of dollars for retooling the auto industry so they can build "green" cars no one wants to buy.

And, it's got lots of money in it for education programs like Head Start and Pell grants. Unfortunately, the over-education of American workers may be part of the problem. What's the point of giving students money for college when there won't be any jobs for them to get after they graduate?

Case in point: only 40 percent of English majors with graduate degrees are able to find tenure-track positions upon graduation. The good news is, Obama's plan will allow those English graduates to go straight to work

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Entrepreneur? Read on...

BY ANDREW SHALNA
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

The School of Business will be kicking off a competition geared toward helping aspiring entrepreneurs learn the process of starting up their own business and the fundamentals of putting together a business plan.

The competition will be lead by sophomore Robin Norman and Associate Dean of the School of Business Dr. Pete Simmons. The competition will begin this February 10.

Students are divided into teams made up of two to five students. Each team will be required to produce an executive summary, followed by the actual business plan. The teams will then orally present their business plans to a panel of judges, with the winner taking home a generous cash prize. The competition will begin on February 10, 2009 with a presentation held inside the Student Community Center boardrooms. In between rounds of competition, there will be various workshops and seminars covering topics ranging from how to create a business plan to how to succeed as an entrepreneur.

When asked about the business plan competition, Norman was enthusiastic about the potential the competition has.

"As an entrepreneurship major, I started to look around the community for competitions like this, but couldn't find any," said Norman. "I began to think that maybe Saint Leo University should have some of these kinds of opportunities for its students, so I decided to start working towards creating one for Saint Leo."

Working closely with Simmons, Norman began making ideas into reality. The end product is sure to astound students and faculty alike.

"I am passionate about continuing the school of businesses' goal of pushing further into the 21st century of higher education," said Norman. "I think that opportunities like this for students will keep the goal going. Without the full support of Dr. Simmons and the School of Business, we wouldn't have been able to make this event possible."

Keeping the tragedy out of Greek life

How Saint Leo University is working to change the image of Greek life

BY COLLIN R. GOOD
Lions' Pride Sports Editor

Three Saint Leo University students traveled to Indianapolis in January to help change the image of Greek Life, not only on campus, but across the nation.

The National Interfraternity Conference Academy was held at the Indianapolis Hilton on January 24, an annual event to help educate IFC members on how to comply with NIC Standards, passed in 2004. These standards include the new fraternity laws on hazing, alcohol, and recruitment.

"Accountability is the word of the day," was the mantra of Ben Pendry, the director for fraternity advancement for NIC. "When you start holding your brothers accountable for their actions, you can stop seeing Greeks in the news cycles for the bad things they do, and start seeing them for their philanthropy and charity."

The main focus of IFC Academy is to bring together delegates from all 73 national fraternities that have signed into the NIC Standards, and educate their members on the new laws and regulations they are mandated to follow. The delegates were shown a video called "Inside Job," which highlighted the service aspect of fraternity, and brought the issues facing them front and center.

"This is what people see," said Pendry. "They see the kid who died at a frat party on the news. They see the girl that was hazed during her initiation. They see chapters being shut down. They see you as partiers, rapists, and killers. But you're not those things. You're here today to change that view completely."

The delegates were made up of more than 20 schools from across the nation. Schools varied in size, from The Ohio State University to Saint Leo, one of the smallest. Saint Leo's delegates represented Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Lambda, and Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"To show you how serious this is, I'm asking any one of the men in this room to pledge their commitment to compliance with these new standards. If you're not serious about it, I'll ask you to resign from your IFC right now, leave the room, and resign your letters," said Peter Smithhisler, president and CEO of NIC Indianapolis. "That's how serious it is.... We don't want to get that next phone call telling us about the latest death at a fraternity party. We never want that call again."

The delegates were asked to leave IFC Academy with a message of hope and change to bring back to their campuses. The message was only when these new standards are implemented into all chapters across the nation will the tragedies stop. Greek life is no longer "Animal House," but closer to The Ronald McDonald House. When Greeks across the country comply, the image will reflect what Greeks are truly about: fraternity, service, community.

Omega Delta Sigma: The Highest Degree of Brotherhood

BY ANDREW SHALNA
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

A new fraternity has opened its doors at Saint Leo University. Omega Delta Sigma, which is a non-Greek affiliated fraternity open to male and females, was started by Marine Corps veteran, junior, Peter Ficnerski, for all veterans, active duty personnel, and advanced ROTC cadets.

"We are a brotherhood with a true sense of values, comradeship, and Esprit de corps," said Ficnerski. "I am starting this fraternity for the Veterans and Saint Leo. ÙÄÓ is a way that veterans can come together and to have a support network."

The fraternity is service based, designed to help with the rough transition from the military life to the collegiate life, as well as providing support to one another. They have three main goals: (1) to facilitate the rough transition from military life to collegiate life for the servicemen and women, and also to provide a network of contacts. (2) to provide support within the fraternity by assisting each other with collegiate, personal, and/or financial difficulties. (3) to offer service to those who have sacrificed themselves; for example, there are many forgotten people living in VA hospitals and nursing homes wanting someone to talk to.

Omega Delta Sigma, who hail themselves as the highest degree of brotherhood, was originally founded at the University of Florida, with Saint Leo's Beta Chapter being the second in the country.

Omega Delta Sigma believes they are the oldest fraternity in the country, as the bonds of the military have been tied since revolutionary times.

"Our fraternal bond is based on military service, respect, honor, and commitment to this great nation. Since 1776 the United States of America has enjoyed a prosperous history of freedom. This freedom has come at an enormous price, both here at home and on foreign soil. We believe that the American servicemen and women, in essence, make up the oldest fraternity in the United States," said Ficnerski.

This will be the first all-veterans fraternity.

Tips for SLU's newest arrivals

BY JESSICA PALL
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Transfer students new to Saint Leo this semester may already be use to the college way of life. What they need is a way to assimilate into the Saint Leo community.

Here's a good list of local restaurant and stores enjoyed by Saint Leo's local color to help with the assimilation process.

One favorite place is Pancho Villa's, a small local restaurant located just off of state Road 52 in San Antonio. Take a right out of the school, and it is down the road a mile. Many love the authentic and inexpensive Mexican food served here. While deciding and ordering the food, customers are served two different variations of home-made salsa with unlimited, freshly baked chips.

Right next door, students can shop at the San Antonio Market, often shortened to San An Market. The market is a small local store that offers a variety of groceries, ice-cream, smoothies, subs, fresh-cut deli meat and cheese, and home baked treats.

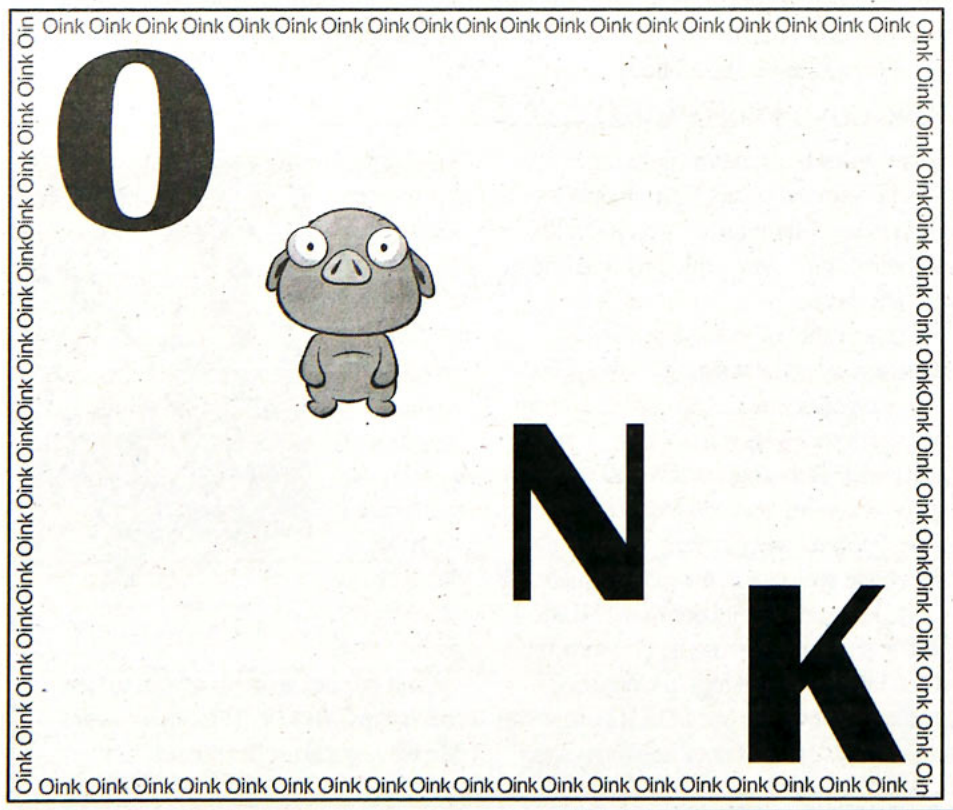
Another popular restaurant is Aces & Eight Ball on State Rd 52. Aces & Eight Ball is a sports grill bar/restaurant with great music, pool tables, arcade games, and reasonably prices food. Many students recommend the wings and the chili cheese burger.

Although it's located a little farther from Saint Leo, Beef o' Brady's is another great sports bar/restaurant located in the heart of Dade City. Students love to eat the variety of burgers, sandwiches and delicious curly fries served there.

Recently, Wiregrass mall opened, providing buyers with numerous clothing stores and restaurants, such as Forever 21, Hollister, and Moe's. Cobb Theaters also just recently opened in Wesley Chapel and contains multiple movie theaters with large screens and comfy seats. Wiregrass is exit 56 off I-75.

As a transfer student, sometimes it's hard having to adjust to a different environment with new friends and new professors. However, becoming involved with the school will help for an easier transition. Playing intramural sports, joining a club, running for student government, or rushing for a fraternity/sorority are all good ways to meet new people.

"I loved that Saint Leo make all of your credits work for you. They also give you an advisor that is very knowledgeable in what you are majoring in," said senior Donnie Maclary. Maclary, who transferred from Mount Union College his junior year and is majoring in hospital administration. "The best thing about transferring to Saint Leo is how helpful the school is in making your experience here a memorable one."



A night with Dennis Lehane

BY MARY CHUHINKO & JESSICA SWANSON
Lions' Pride Staff Writer
Lions' Pride Copy Editor

On Tuesday January 13, 2009, Dennis Lehane, critically acclaimed author and screenwriter, made an appearance at Saint Leo University. Just before 7:00pm, the seats of the conference room in the Student Activity Center were filled with students, faculty, staff, and university guests alike, all waiting in anticipation for Lehane's arrival.

Following an introduction by Saint Leo's own resident fiction writer, Professor Patrick Crerand, Lehane held his audience captivated for just over an hour.

After a lighthearted apology to the reading students who were required to attend, Lehane assured that the entire event would only go on for as long as necessary.

"I need to be sure you're entertained," Lehane laughed.

Claiming that he was getting tired of constantly reading excerpts from his new best-seller, *The Given Day,* Lehane kicked off the evening with a new short story, "Animal Rescue." The main character, Bob, is walking down the street after his night-shift at the local bar, and he hears a noise coming from a nearby barrel (trash can). He goes to investigate and he finds an abused puppy. The owner of the barrel yells down from her apartment at him. Bob yells back that he found a puppy inside. She comes downstairs and invites him inside. Her name is Nadia. They clean up the puppy and she promises to take care of it until Sunday. The following Sunday, Nadia drops the puppy of with Bob, but she continues to help him care for it. They name the puppy "Cassius". Months later, Cassius' "real" owner appears to take him back. Conflict ensues.

Following, the reading of "Animal Rescue," there was a question and answer session. Some brave souls asked questions such as "How do you come up with a character's word choice?" Lehane answered smoothly, pointing out that people talked differently based on their locations. In different areas they have different ways of identifying and pronouncing words. He then went on to say that television has the potential to make the world a very boring place because it homogenizes speech patterns.

"When researching, how do you find the subtleties that make their way into your novels," another person asked.

Lehane pointed out that the key to these subtleties was to name only a few key brands that would have been popular at the time. Otherwise, readers get bogged down and become disinterested. Generally, prior to writing, Lehane pours over old newspaper ads, movies, and songs—anything period-related. After, he throws most of it out.

One audience member wondered whether Lehane had ever been approached about whether or not he had a based a character off of a specific person. Lehane answered that he had not based any of his characters intentionally off of specific people with the exception of Helene McCready from *Gone Baby Gone*, who lacked self-awareness at the elemental level.

There were several other questions, but the final question of the night was, "Do you sit back and write at a leisurely pace or do you have to get words on a page?"

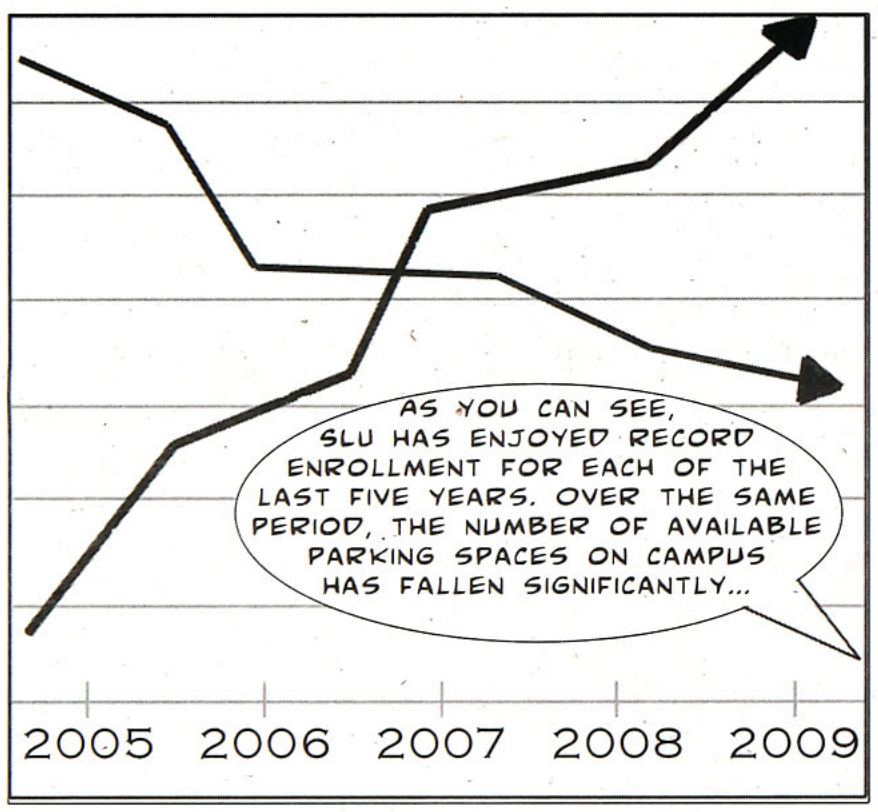
Lehane answered that he did both. For him, writing is painful most of the time.

Courtesy of englishblogspot.com
Dennis Lehane

"The better you get at it, the harder it is [to write] because you understand the world. But, the best thing is the writer's experience of a day when they come to the realization that their story exists because they exist. Most people will never have the luck to experience that. It's important for new writers to realize that the thing that they might be searching for, they already have," Lehane stated.

Following the question and answer session, audience members had a chance to buy copies of several of Lehane's novels and have them autographed courtesy of Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

For more information on Dennis Lehane, visit *www.dennislehane.com.*


AS YOU CAN SEE, SLU HAS ENJOYED RECORD ENROLLMENT FOR EACH OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE PARKING SPACES ON CAMPUS HAS FALLEN SIGNIFICANTLY...
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009
...AND AS YOU CAN SEE, MORE STUDENTS COUPLED WITH FEWER PARKING SPACES HAS LED TO A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN BOTH TUITION AND PARKING TICKET REVENUE.
2005 2006 2007 2008 2009
SLU ADMINISTRATION EXPLAINS CAMPUS PARKING STRATEGY

SUCCESS CON'T FROM PAGE 2

building roads and bridges thanks to the few infrastructure projects he has included.

Remember hearing about all of those "jobs Americans don't want to do" like construction labor and picking strawberries? Well, those are the kinds of jobs this "stimulus" package will create. The "green collar" jobs the president is promising will only be sustainable positions if the technology turns a profit (or if it is subsidized by the government indefinitely). Considering the fact that the private sector—always keen on making a profit—have been ignoring "green" technologies, I'd say it's a good bet that such projects will be little more than money pits, requiring more and more government money (which is your money) every year just to stay in operation.

You know, like Amtrak, which is slated to receive nearly $1 billion of Obama's "stimulus" plan.

So, congratulations Saint Leo students! Upon graduation, you'll be able to get a job as a conductor on an empty train; or carry cement around a work site; or teach people how to perform jobs that don't exist.

Prepare to be stimulated.

STIMULATED CON'T FROM PAGE 2

not one Republican in the entire House of Representatives voted for Obama's stimulus package. What's up with that? Is it that these Republicans simply did not agree with Obama's plan of action? Or, is it more that they don't want to spend their precious government dollars trying to help the American people avoid the Great Depression: Part Two?

Also, it's not like the Republican in office the last eight years did much to help the country, and more recently the economy, when he knew we were spiraling down. He spent too much of his time in office waging a war in Iraq and cleaning up that mess to really do anything else.

Obama tried to convince these Republican representatives to trust in his plan and band together and they simply refused. Their mistake, I'd say.

Frankly, I was never a huge Obama supporter from the beginning.But, Obama has made me feel something I haven't ever felt from Bush or Clinton etc. He has given me a message of hope. This man will prevail, but more importantly, at least he has the guts to try.

KING CON'T FROM PAGE 2

how it ruins lives. After speaking, Scarpo showed us his film "Journey to a Hate Free Millennium," which left the audience with eyes welled up and lumps in their throats.

The reality of hate is that it is unnecessary and damaging to everyone. Not one person improves his existence by hating another. The veracity of love and acceptance is that our communities, towns, states, countries, and continents become more peaceful and pleasant places to live. When we feel safe in the places where we work, learn, and spend our lives, we are able to share our dreams. This is something that Martin Luther King, Jr. would be thanked for by each one of us if he was still alive today. We can honor him by making our social environments a safer and more loving environment for ALL people. Look around at the people on campus who may feel left out or alone. Say hello, make them feel welcomed, and open your heart to new friendships in honor of the opportunities Mr. King made available to us.

Photograph courtesy of publicdomain@blogspot.com
Dr. Martin Luther King

Happy Valentine's Day!

~Valentine Tips For the Average Guy~

BY DONOVAN RUMMEL
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

It's Valentine's Day, or the day before, and you have absolutely no idea what in the world you're going to do for that special girl in your life. We've all been there, its okay, but here are a few helpful hints to give that special someone what she deserves and what she really wants for the big day.

To use these tips correctly you must choose which one of two groups you fall into. The first group is those who are in a committed relationship and the second is the group trying their hardest to impress a new girl in hopes of becoming a member of the first group. Now here are the statistics. Hey, there's safety in "numbers." Am I right? For those of you in the first group, here is what the women have to say: when choosing your gift for her, think more from the heart and less from the wallet. Eighty percent, that's 4 out of 5, of girls I polled said they would prefer a gift from the heart over an expensive or trivial gift.

The next order of business is the date, where to go, and what to do. Loud and happening, or soft and quiet? The best choice: don't go anywhere at all. Once again, 80 percent said they would rather have a quiet romantic evening at home. More than half of the women polled said to be relaxed and natural in order to have the most enjoyable evening. More specifically, for relationships lasting over one year, she is expecting an "intense" romantic evening.

Now for all you other guys who don't have a clue, or even if you do have a clue but need a few more, here's how the single girls stacked up. Once again, 80 percent want a heartfelt gift. But, that's where the similarities end. The single girls of the Leo campus are looking for an original out of the ordinary Valentine's Day date. These dates range anywhere from the beach, to the "anything fun," to the ever popular "surprise me." Of course, the classic dinner and a movie won't hurt for a good first date, but it's a cliché for a reason guys.

As for the atmosphere, keep it calm and relaxed but not boring. Now here is the clincher: the all important goodnight kiss. If you did well, i.e. didn't show up dirty or embarrass yourself or worse her, you should be fine with a 70 percent chance of a goodnight kiss. If you trip and spill the soup on her, you're done for; there is a 20 percent or less chance of getting that goodnight smooch. If you screwed it up, and chances are if you did you'll know, then instead of trying to kiss her and having the door slammed in your face, just offer her a hug or a hand shake depending on how bad you did.

Well that's all I have to offer; do your best. And remember, we're all in this together. Like I said before, safety in numbers.

....Or maybe not?

Really, It's Just Another Day

BY MARY F. CHUHINKO
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Valentine's Day is considered to be the most romantic day of the year. In reality, Valentine's Day is just another day of the year. There's nothing special about it. It is not the day that will bring lovers together. It has been made into another pointless holiday where companies get rich exploiting people's guilt.

The supposed origin of how people first celebrated Valentine's Day started through a Pagan festival known as Lupercalia that honors both Lupa, the she wolf of Rome who nursed Romulus and Remus, and Faunus, the Pagan god of fertility. The celebration was a brutal one, which began with an animal sacrifice and ended with the ritualistic whipping of young women with strips of the animal's skin that was meant to bestow fertility for the upcoming year.

During the 3rd century A.D., Emperor Claudius II wanted to have a vast and strong army, thus making the oh-so-practical of laws, banning all marriages. Father Valentine thought the ban unreasonable and married couples in secret. Eventually, the Emperor caught on and traced the nefarious actions back to Father Valentine and had him sentenced to death.

It has been said that imprisoned young couples he married would sneak Father Valentine flowers and notes expressing their gratitude. Did they also give him heart shaped boxes of chocolate and name stars after him? Father Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter. Before he died, he slipped her a note that was signed "From Your Valentine."

Another idea is to try not to celebrate Valentine's Day Al Capone style; his consisted of seven casualties. One of the most notorious events to occur on February 14 was in 1929 when Al 'Scarface' Capone orchestrated the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. Around 10 a.m. George 'Bugs' Moran's henchman were waiting inside their usual hangout, the S.M.C Cartage Co. garage, for Bugs to arrive. Two of Scarface's men, dressed as policemen, came in, lined the men against the wall, and shot them. This event stopped the mob wars and made Scarface the main Mob boss in town. Many Valentine's Day gifts come as a surprise but none can match the "gift" that Scarface sent to Bugs.

Speaking of gifts, when did flowers and love letters become boring? Valentine's Day has become just another reason to waste money on pointless merchandise. A person can go on the internet to search for the "perfect gift" for their special someone. Some of these gifts include the ever romantic Valentine's Day toilet paper, gilded roses, the two person underwear, and the ever popular "get your face" seamlessly painted into the renaissance style of Adam and Eve.

One word of advice most amusing is from a blogger who wrote, "If you want a laugh, go to Hallmark sometime in the evening and watch freaked out men try to pick out 'the' card. Or, visit the nearest grocery store and watch people fight over the shriveled remains of flowers in a last ditch effort for sex." With that said, enjoy Valentine's Day.

A few fun facts about love

BY SIMONE WILLIAMS
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

Love has to be one of the most confusing emotions ever. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, it's important to have at least some facts straight about it. *The Lions' Pride* took the liberty of scouring the hearts of men and women alike to decode love and make it somewhat easy to understand. Here are a few fun facts about men and women that are sure to make anyone a pro at love:

·Women choose from no less than 52 moves to show men they're interested. The average man chooses from a maximum of 10 to attract a female.

·Men tend to get "luckier" later on in their day. Seventy-eight percent of women would decline sensual invitations in the morning if they haven't shaved their legs or underarms.

·The single biggest predictor of love is proximity. Saint Leo is a relatively small campus. So who knows, that someone special could be right on campus.

·Two-thirds of people report that they fall in love with someone they've known for some time versus someone they just met.

·Brain scans show that people who view photos of a beloved experience an activation of the caudate ...the part of the brain involving cravings.

·People are more likely to tilt their heads to the right when kissing instead of the left. Sixty-five percent of people go to the right.

·Couples' personalities converge over time to make partners more and more similar.

·Forty-three percent of women prefer their partners never sign "love" to a card unless they are ready for commitment. So men, don't feel pressured into writing or even saying "love" unless you mean it. But even then, women might not be ready for it!

·A man's beard grows the fastest when he anticipates sensual encounters. There's a reason for that five o'clock shadow…

·In a recent study, results revealed that men who kiss their spouses in the morning outlive men who don't by five years. In short, making out equals longevity.

Well, that's everything *The Pride* knows. For more fun facts, check out the full list of love facts online: "25 Love Facts" by Laura Schafer and "18 Body Clues That Says He's Interested—Definitely" by Tracey Cox.

Arts & Entertainment

Pro-Lifer's Think Again...

BY THOMAS SCAGLIONE III
Lions' Pride Entertainment Editor

Demonic body possessions, dogs with upside-down heads, freaky ghost twins, and an old man contorting in ways no one should ever do…these are the frights that will haunt your dreams long after seeing *The Unborn*.

Casey Beldon (Odette Yustman from 2008's *Cloverfield*) is a seemingly normal woman with typical young adult problems, but that begins to change dramatically as she begins to see haunting visions of a mysterious young boy with strange blue eyes everywhere she goes. As her visions get progressively more lifelike and violent, she starts to notice subtle changes in herself that lead her to uncover her family's dark, hidden past.

Casey soon discovers her family is being haunted by a dybbuk, a harmful spirit stuck between the worlds of the living and the dead, that is trying to be reborn into this world through Casey. The audience is left on the edge of their seats as they follow her through this cinematic voyage into her nightmarish fate.

While this film ventures into a weakly built plot and a familiar storyline that has all been done a million times over, its special effects and visual appeal should be more than enough to bring this to the top of the horror movie selections for this year. Not only do the ghosts and apparitions look terrifyingly real, but the lead character and her boyfriend (Cam Gigandet of 2009's *Twilight*) are obviously there to rake in the masses of hormonal teenagers who soak up every inch of partial nudity as if their eyes needed to breathe in the images steaming up the screen.

Photograph courtesy of www.bloody-disgusting.com

As far as an original storyline goes, this film falls extremely short. Like in most horror films from the past two decades, the pretty girl gets haunted by something scary, her friends try to help but die in the process, people tell her she is crazy, she tells them she isn't crazy, and then she thinks she might really be crazy, and there's a big showdown in which everyone realizes she was telling the truth and she gets to say, "I told you so" real smugly, and then the big finale of a climax in which the movie producers throw tons of money at the ghost in terms of special effects and the "baddie" goes away (obviously taking a cue from the Bush administration). While this is an effective way to scare the audience without risking a mixed reaction from the viewers, as M. Night Shyamalan has surely learned well enough by this point, it would be refreshing to actually be surprised about what is to come for once.

Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and terror, disturbing images, and sexual material, *The Unborn* is a movie that not everyone would enjoy, but will make for an interesting rental once it comes out. While it is definitely not worth the money to see it in theatres, pro-choicers might enjoy the surely one sided philosophical talks that will ensue if they bring a handful of their anti-abortion buddies along.

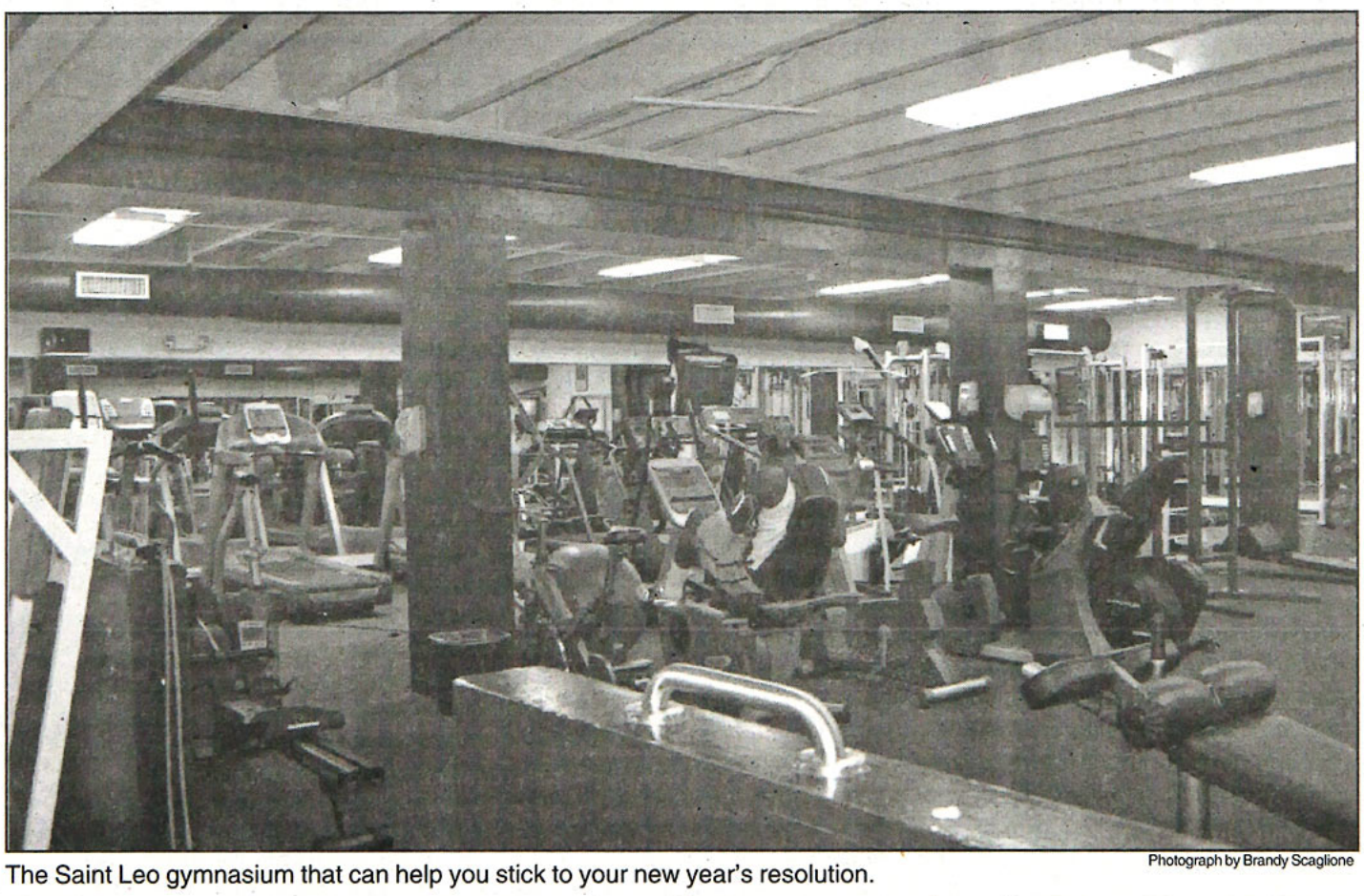
A New Year, A New You

BY MINDY PIERCE
Lions' Pride Staff Writer

It's a new year and new resolutions are made by you every year to become healthier and fit.

No matter if you turn into a hardcore athlete or just want to exercise a couple days in the week, a weekly routine plan will definitely make working out easier. It's also a good idea to have an exact plan for the workout session. For example, if you're going to the gym, a simple plan like running for ten minutes, doing some weights and abs, and then warming down on the bike for another ten minutes is an ideal gym workout.

There are many other different types of workouts where the gym is not necessary. Activities like running, swimming, biking, basketball, and even tennis are just some of the many athletic options out there.


The Saint Leo gymnasium that can help you stick to your new year's resolution.
Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

There are many precautions beginners must take to prevent injury and burn out. If getting into shape is a new concept, basic rules are to not become obsessed with working out. There is often a misconception that people think if they work out more and more, the results will become better and better. The truth is, however, a beginner's muscles are not use to exercising so much and overdoing it can lead to an unnecessary injury.

Nutrition is a vital component to staying healthy and fit. It is very important to "carb up" before and especially after training. If proper nutrition is not consumed, the body will have nothing to run on and this will hurt all of the training being done. Proper liquid intake is also very important. Each workout requires different kind of drink intake. After lifting weights, a good drink to repair the broken down muscles is a good protein shake or simply chocolate milk. After a high intensity cardio workout, sports drinks like Gatorade and Powerade are perfect. Of course, water is always the better option as opposed to soft drinks during regular meal times.

According to www.wholefitness.com, stretching and recovery is as important as training itself. It is always a great idea to stretch before going to bed, after waking up, before and after workout. Stretching your joints improves athleticism and flexibility which will improve training performance. After a workout, getting enough recovery or just sleep is very vital for the well-being of the body.

After all these tips, don't become the next victim by being ignorant when it comes to working out. With a little mental toughness and motivation, exercise will soon become a second nature that you won't be able to live without.

Versa emerges from the local band scene

BY BRANDY SCAGLIONE
Lions' Pride Photography Editor

Photograph Courtesy of myspace.com

For students who attended last year's Rock Against Cancer, created by our own Theta Phi Alpha sorority, the name Versaemerge may ring a familiar bell. This girl-fronted rock band played an awesome set to some 50 or so students in Apartment 4 along with There for Tomorrow, and It's Alive!.

Ever since their appearance on campus, this writer has been hooked to the band's distinct sound and heart-felt lyrics. Now Versaemerge begins 2009 with a brand new EP and a record contract with the prominent Fueled by Ramen record label (Paramore, Fall Out Boy, Panic! At the Disco, etc.). The women of Theta Phi Alpha sure know how to pick them!

Versaemerge began when drummer Anthony Martone and guitarist/vocalist Blake Harnage used to play local shows together in high school. Over time the band grew to include Jerry Pierce (guitar), Sierra Kusterbeck (vocals) and Devin Ingelido (bass).

"When Sierra first tried out for the band we didn't know what to expect," Harnage explains, adding that the then sixteen-year-old female vocalist lied about her age in order to land an audition. "She's always been amazingly talented, but now she's learning how to use that talent to its full potential."

Versaemerge's first official EP showcases the band's talent for integrating rock with other musical genres. *Perceptions* begins with a dramatic acoustic opening aptly named *Theatrics*, which blends in to the mellow rock style of *The Hider*. The lyrics in *Past Praying For* personally caught this writer's attention, singing of past regrets and the rough road of self-discovery: "Heaven forbid, well aware of your sins. In the wake I'll be just like the rest. Tell the sun don't fall, so we'll never forget."

Also in *Past Praying For*, the band showcases their ability to write a somewhat harder rock song (perhaps worth mosh-pitting a bit for, or at least a good head-bang). *Moments Between Sleep*, the fourth song on the EP, is a little more of a rock ballad as Sierra sings about a summer she never wants to forget, but life's inevitable ability to change us all.

Whisperer brings the CD back up a notch as it intertwines theatrical sounding violins with harmonious keyboards. The sound of this track matches the lyrics perfectly as Sierra serenades listeners about a love that "plays my nerves like strings, all upside down, trying to keep straight."

Perceptions is brought to an end by the entrancing *Clocks*, which could probably serve as a potential lullaby for the average listener.

Versaemerge begins the Secret Valentine Tour in February with headlining band We The Kings and guests The Maine, The Cab and There for Tomorrow (who also played at Saint Leo) and another tour this March with Craig Owens (Chiodos), Ace and Enders, The Color Fred (select nights), and The Gay Blades (select nights).

The March tour will be coming to the Orpheum in Ybor City March 13. If you attend the show in Ybor, be warned that the band may ask you out for Alaskan tacos, their favorite Ybor City past time.

For more information about the band, check out their myspace at www.myspace.com/versaemerge.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Lead singer Sierra serenades the crowd.

Photograph by Brandy Scaglione

Guitarist Blake performs a solo as singer Sierra head-bangs.

Sports

From the sports desk

BY COLLIN R. GOOD
Lions' Pride Sports Editor

Dear readers,

My name is Collin Good, and I'm your new Sports Editor. I was left with big shoes to fill by Caitlin Craft, and I'll do my best to live up to her standards of excellence and integrity.

I'm bringing new ideas and a new look to the Sports Section, and I'm going to try my hardest to make sure all sports receive equal coverage.

In high school, I was a proud member of the Cross Country, Indoor Track, Outdoor Track, and Tennis teams, while I played indoor soccer in the winter. My best friends are swimmers, volleyball players, and baseball players. I've got the background to represent you in the newspaper, and I hope you'll pick up an issue and leave me new ideas or suggestions as you see fit. Thank you for your support. Go Lions!

Lady Lions break losing streak

Saint Leo's Women's Basketball Team brings in a win over Flagler College

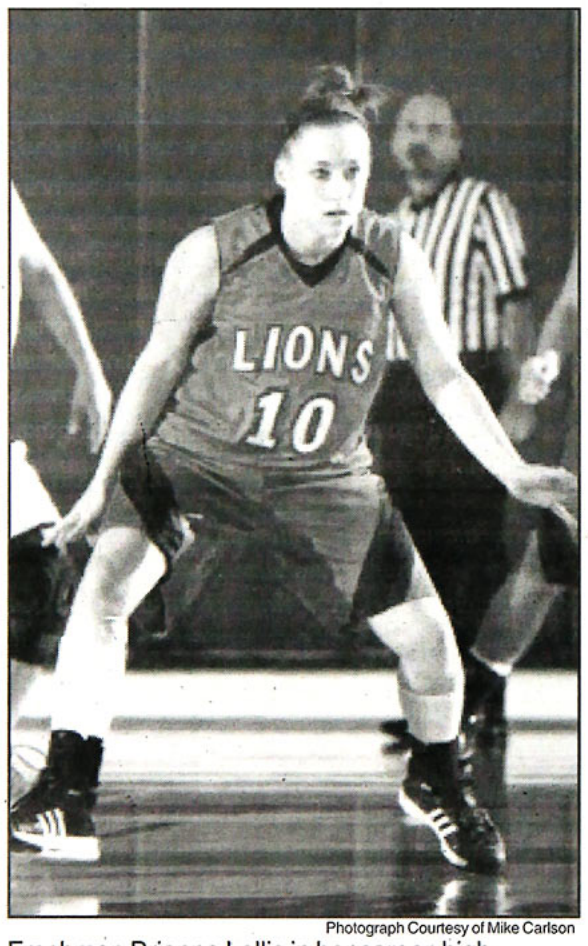
BY COLLIN R. GOOD
Lions' Pride Sports Editor

The Lions took an early lead against Flagler, and never lost it. The team, (8-10, 0-8 in SSC), broke a nine-game losing streak with a relatively easy win against their opponents, with a final score of 76-52.

Freshman Brianna Lollis led the offensive with a career-high 16 points, while the defense allowed only seven points in as many minutes.

This win may just give the Lions the jolt they needed for the remainder of the season.

Their next game is January 31, against the Barry University Buccaneers in the Marion Bowman Center.

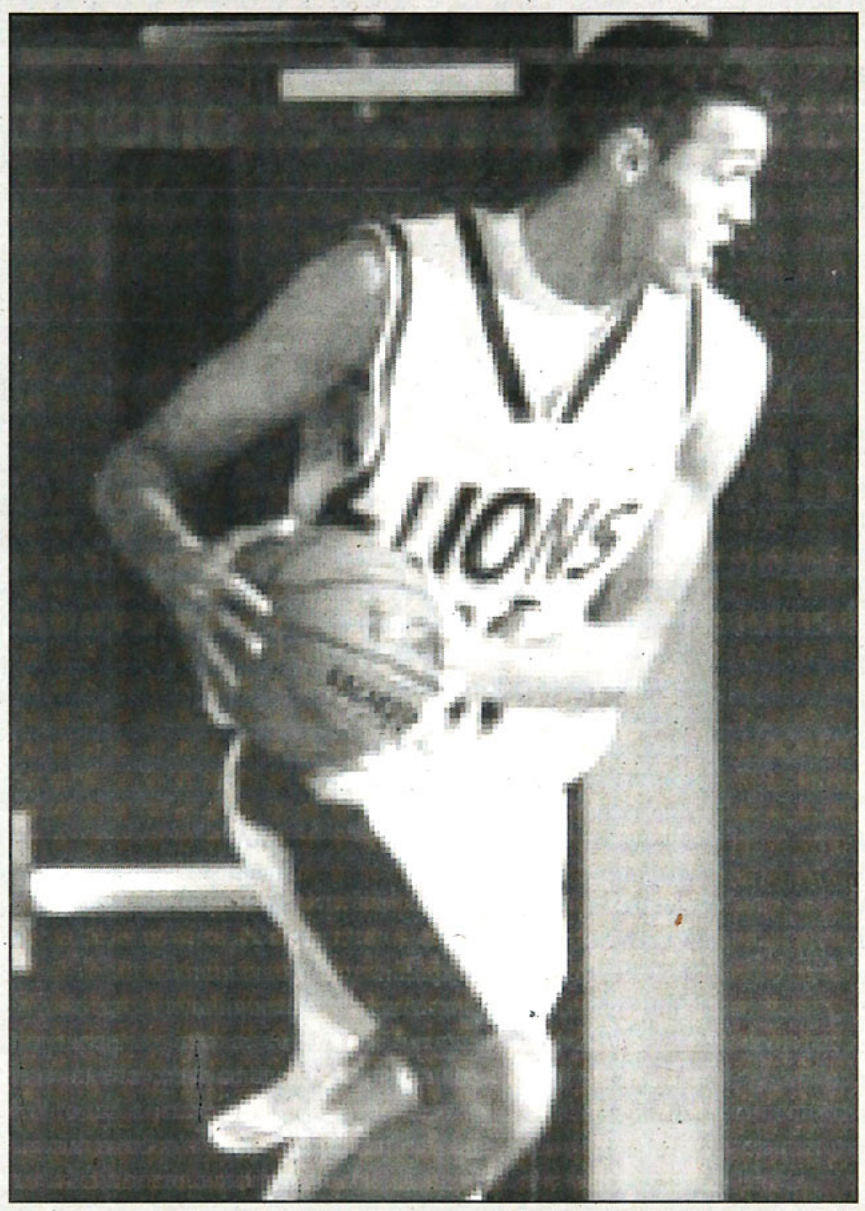


Photograph Courtesy of Mike Carlson

Freshman Brianna Lollis in her career-high scoring game

Win over Flagler sends men into four straight

Saint Leo's Men's Basketball team wins four in a row, and sets new heights



Photograph Courtesy of Mike Carlson

Kyle Rowland in his record-setting game

BY COLLIN R. GOOD
Lions' Pride Sports Editor

The Lions won 87-83 at home against Flagler College last week in anon-conference game. The four-game winning streak is a season high for this year's team. Down by as much as eight points in the first half, the Lions' Quentin Cullop scored 17 points in the second half to open a lead as far as ten points.

Jordan Prais led the team with 19 points, followed by Cullop, Josue Vazquez, and Kyle Rowland, who each added 16 points.

Rowland, in addition to his excellent offense, set the All Time Blocking Record at Saint Leo University with 124 blocks.

The Lions sit at 11-10, with a 4-4 conference record.

Student athletes eat lunch with the president

BY JESSICA PALL & MELINDA PIERCE
Lions' Pride Staff Writers

Forty-seven student-athletes were honored recently at the President's Luncheon with Dr. Kirk. The luncheon, held January 30 at the Lake Jovita Country Club, was held to celebrate the induction of members into the Presidents Club for the 2008 fall semester. Most of the Division II sports Saint Leo offers were represented by their athletes at this luncheon.

The President's Club was started to honor the student athletes who are academically in the top 15 percent of all student-athletes. Athletes had to post at least a 3.67 GPA last semester to be inducted into the club for the 2008 fall semester.

There were 23 first-time recipients, 6 two-time recipients, 12 three-time recipients, 3 five-time recipients, and 1 sixth-time recipient. The 2 seventh-time recipients were Sara Tatko of women's swimming, posting a 3.93 GPA, and Ally Maddox of softball, posting a 4.00 GPA.

Different prizes were given to the student athletes depending on how many times they had been honored in the President's Club. First time recipients were awarded a green t-shirt, second timers were given Saint Leo polo shirts, third timers received an SLU hat, the fifth to seventh timers were given a Saint Leo pen set.

After lunch was served, the student-athletes listened to Dr. Kirk give a short speech commemorating athletic and academic success.

"Excellence is in the hands of each and every one of the student athletes who raise the standards of all of the other athletes at Saint Leo. They are an example to others in the classroom and on the field, court, course, and even pool," said Brad Jorgensen, the head coach for men's lacrosse, who gave the final remarks.

Overall, athletes at Saint Leo are raising the standard academically. Last semester, 11 of the 16 athletic teams posted greater than 3.0 GPA. The cumulative GPA of the athletes broke the 3.0 GPA mark, the first time in Saint Leo History since the NCAA began requiring grade reports in the 1980's.